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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am writing to support my local Internet provider here in rural Virginia. Without these small companies to provide Internet service and broadband to us we would still be using dial-up connections. These companies provide excellent service to a section of the population that would otherwise not be able to use Internet for education and small businesses.

Broadband is absolutely essential for my business, a small artisan chocolate company. Not an hour goes by in my shop when I am not on the Internet with customers or vendors. I also use the Internet at my home office. We have a college administrator in our home and they need almost unlimited use of the web.

America's work habits are somewhat defined by these services and some of us live in small towns where the service must be local and less expensive. I simply cannot pay more for the service I'm getting currently. I would like to have more choice when selecting a provider. The energy sector in America is almost a monopoly as is farming and many other services. America needs more competition.

No price hikes! The FCC should not be afraid of competition - competition makes you better.

Laura de Maria